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Jen-min Jih-pao,

PROGRESS AND PROBLEMS OF MUTUAL AID TRAMS IN HEILUNGKIANG

Chang Shih-ying, chairman of the Staff Office of the Heilungkiang Communist Party Committee, describes in the following article the accomplishments and problems of the mutual aid teams (hereinafter referred to as MAT) and Agricultural Production Cooperatives in Heilungkiang. Discussing outstanding production records established by individual farmers and MAT in 1951, he cites an average yield for five crops of 4,120 catties per hectare attained by one MAT, and records of 7,575 catties per hectare for wheat and 12,214 for corn attained by individual farmers. Acreage and production reached 90 percent of 1943 figures.

He reveals that middle-class farmers now constitute more than half of the total farmers of the province. Land cultivated and animals and implements owned by them represent even higher percentages. The amount of surplus crops sold on the market has increased each year.

According to the writer, there are now 150,000 MAT, of four types, in the province, with more than 689,000 farm families as members. There are four Agricultural Production Cooperatives. The development of the MAT is to be encouraged. Party cadres and members are criticized for holding aloof from MAT, and hsien and ch'u authorities are urged to give more practical attention to promoting the MAT movement.

A comprehensive summary of the article follows.

Great changes appeared in the rural areas of Heilungkiang during the 1951 patriotic production emulation drive. In general production surpassed preliberation figures and many outstanding records were established by individuals, MAT, and whole villages. Some of the records were as follows:

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 Farmer
 Crop
 Production (catties per ha)

 Chang Ts'ai
 Wheat
 7,575

 Wang Shun
 Scybeans
 7,200

 Chao Kuang-t'ien
 Corn
 12,214

 Hsieh Kuei
 Kaoliang
 7,220

The above records were more than twice the usual yield. MAT high records were as follows:

MAT	Crop	Production (shih* per ha)
Ma-ho Hsien, Ma-ching- fu KAT (on 81 ha of new land) Hai-lung Hsien, Mc_g- ch'ing-yu MAT (on	Wheat	7
89.51 ha)	Wheat Soybeans Kaoliang Millet Corn Av of all crops	5.6 7.34 9.23 7.73 13.80 8.55 (4,120 catties)
Hai-lun Haien, Chu- ch'ing-shan MAT	Av of all crops	9.00 (approx 4,230 catties)

One shih equals 110.3 liters

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These averages were over 1,000 catties above the standard yield.

The cultivated area in the province in 1951 was 4 million hectares. Of this, 300,000 hectares were in vegetables and industrial crops. Some 600,000 hectares suffered from calamities. Nevertheless, the grain production for the province was over 3,900,000 tons. Both acreage and production reached 90 percent of 1943 figures. The average yield of 2,435 catties per hectare is 8 percent above the 1943 average yield of 2,252 catties.

Middle-class farmers now constitute more than half the farmers of the province. According to statistics from six villages in three hsien, before land reform middle-class farmers constituted 17 percent of the total; now they constitute 64.1 percent. A good number of them have a higher than average middle-class farmer's income. They are cultivating 76.8 percent of the land now under cultivation and possess 86.2 percent of the agricultural work animals, 87.4 percent of the farm carts, and 88.3 percent of all farm implements. They average two or three horses per farm and have surplus grain and capital. However, they still do not seem to have enough land and are clamoring for more in order to increase production. They constitute a strong force for the increase of production. Poor farmers still number 30.6 percent. They, though better off than before land reform, still labor under many difficulties. About 3.6 percent of them are farm laborers.

There has been an encouraging increase in sales of surplus food crops and industrial raw materials by farmers. From the 1950 crop 1,150,000 tons were sold, and from the 1951 crop 1,350,000 tons. It is estimated that, in 1952, sales will amount to 1,460,000 tons. Sales of the products of farmers' supplementary activities in 1950 amounted to the equivalent of 920,000 tons

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of food, and in 1951 to 1,600,000 tons. The sale of these products has resulted in increased buying power for the farmers, in some cases as much as 42.7 percent in the last year.

There are now in the province 150,000 MAT embracing over 689,000 farm families, or 82.9 percent of the available farm labor. Of the 27 percent of farmers still operating on an individual basis, the larger number are middle-class farmers and a few new-type wealthy farmers.

In view of the above-mentioned conditions and the directives of the Northeast Bureau of the CCP Central Committee, the immediate objectives in the province should be to increase the area of cultivation and the amount of commercial crops so that the middle-class farmers may have a greater abundance and the poor and hared farmers may all soon become middle-class farmers. To this end the incentives to greater abundance should be held before the workers and the organization of MAT expanded.

Thirty-four precent of the MAT in the province set up patriotic production goals and another 17 percent signed patriotic pacts in 1951. The MAT have been responsible for a much improved spirit of industry among farmers and have done much to enlist women in farm work. However, MAT organizations are still unevenly distributed and their strength is still not on a solid foundation. In the backward areas even the party and youth corps members prefer to farm individually, and in such areas the MAT are still on a temporary basis. Interest in their development is decidedly lacking.

There are at present four main types of MAT in the province. The first is of a very temporary nature, providing usually only a spring season interchange of labor. This type of MAT, however, takes in a considerable number of farm families -- 30-40 percent of those included in some form of organization.

The second type of MAT is that in which mutual aid extends through the three busy seasons, but does not include the farmers' supplementary production activities during the winter season. Such MAT can aid the farmers in improving planting and cultivating practices, but still cannot provide a complete year-round production plan. This second type of MAT includes about 50 percent of the organized farm families of the province, and, thus, is the most extensive type in operation.

The third type of MAT in Heilungkiang is the year-round type which has a comprehensive combined production plan for both field and supplementary production. These MAT are concerned with increasing production skills and they practice a certain degree of technical division of labor. Some of them own implements and work animals jointly, other have joint capital. The membership of each MAT is usually large. Most of the model farmers belong to such MAT. Their membership includes 15 to 20 percent of all organized farm families.

A fourth type of MAT is one that may be called a partnership MAT. In these MAT the land is farmed collectively, without regard for boundary lines and with all planting, cultivating, and harvesting activities carried out on a partnership basis. The crop is also divided on this basis. A noteworthy feature of their activities is the use of horse-drawn machinery. The membership of each MAT is usually small, from two to six families. This type of organization prevails along the border of Inner Mongolia, where sand-bearing windstorms and drought make the individual farmer particularly vulnerable to crop losses. These MAT do not usually include winter-season supplementary occupations. There are about 200 such MAT. They do not seem to meet fully the needs of their members in promotion of all-out production.



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A fifth form of agricultural organization, called Agricultural Production Cooperatives, represents the highest form of agricultural mutual aid organization. In this form of organization the members disregard all family land boundaries and use horse-drawn new-type Soviet machinery. Farming and supplementary industries are all coordinated and there is a complete division of labor and occupation. Thus, the labor power of each individual can be used to best advantage and the production capacity of the cooperative raised to its highest point. This type of organization can most effectively solve the problems of all-out agricultural production and lead the farmers into socialized collectivism. There are only four of these organizations in Heilungkiang at present.

To expand and stabilize the mutual aid situation in Heilungkiang, promotion of increasing numbers of the first type of MAT in backward localities with improvement in quality is necessary. Model year-round MAT should be organized at selected points as examples to be followed by the first- and second-type MAT. Cadres who manifest lack of understanding of the real purpose and importance of MAT should be given correctional assignments. In some villages strong leadership should be given to the organization and promotion of the second-type MAT; in progressive villages, promotion of the third-type MAT. The fourth-type MAT should be given stronger leadership and granted loans for equipment. They should be encouraged to become year-round MAT, and suitable ones may be reorganized into Agricultural Production Cooperatives. Machinery stations should be established to become nuclei for Agricultural Production Cooperatives.

To promote successful activity of the MAT movement, the work-animal power and capital of the middle-class peasants must be tied in with the manpower of the poor and hired peasants. Cooperative buying of new-type farm implements, as well as cooperative cultivation of new land and purchasing of rubber-wired carts for improved crop transport, needs to be encouraged. Irrigation and animal husbandry can likewise be carried on cooperatively. MAT should gradually be tied in with the village trust and loan cooperatives and marketing cooperatives.

Irregularities in the comparative valuation of animal and human labor have been occurring in MAT. Middle-class farmers with horses have been asking as large a share of the combined production results as they would allow poor and hired farmers for human labor, and sometimes more. This practice must be changed and a higher value placed on human labor than on animal labor. Animal labor should be placed on a rental or cash-wage-payment basis rather than a cropshare basis.

In some MAT middle-class and wealthy farmers have been sending or bringing long-term hired labor to work for them in the fields. This form of exploitation should not be permitted.

The interest of party cadres and members in the MAT movement must be increased. In some places from 3 to 15 percent of cadres and members either hire long-term labor to wor! for them or do not join the MAT. This type of capitalistic attitude greatly hinders the MAT movement. Hisien party organs must promote an educational campaign to teach and convince party members that they are not permitted to hire labor and that it is wrong for them to abstain from membership in MAT. The party membership must lead the peasantry in the direction of collectivization.

Each ch'u administration should convene quarterly meetings of MAT representatives for pep talks and exchange of experiences. State farms should be nuclei for technical aid and instruction for MAT. MAT representatives should be invited to visit state farms frequently to learn the most modern agricultural methods. State farms must maintain close relations with the peasantry.

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